



Minutes

Bicycle & Trails Advisory Committee

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 21, 2003

PRESENT: Hubbell, Hauge, Eltgroth, Clark, and McCann

ABSENT: Cheu, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mark Frederick

STAFF: Public Works Senior Engineer Julie Behzad
Deputy Director of Public Works – Engineering Karl Bjarke
Public Works Senior Engineer Scott Creer
Public Works Administrative Secretary Karen Nelson

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Hubbell called the meeting to order at 6:15pm

DECLARATION - POSTING OF AGENDA: Julie Behzad certified that this meeting's agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Julie Behzad opened the meeting to public comments. There being no comments, the public comments period was closed.

MINUTES: By unanimous vote, the minutes for the July 17, 2003 meeting were approved.

ORAL REPORTS:

1. Staff Report

*** Effectiveness of Bike Rodeo at Art a la Carte**

Ms. Behzad reported that due to the Police Department's staffing level, they will not be participating in this event this year. Ms. Behzad will go back to determine what it will take for this committee to have a bike rodeo, since the master plan says we hold them. Isn't it the Police Department's responsibility to teach bicycle safety? Mr. Eltgroth responded that it is the PD's responsibility, what do they need to make it happen? Ms. Behzad will ask if volunteers can organize and run a rodeo, and find resources (Safe Moves). Mr. Bjarke said it has been his experience that with donated resources and volunteers, you can run a rodeo, it doesn't take much money. Ms. Behzad will report back next month.

*** Order of Bicycle Education tapes in Spanish for Channel 17**

Ms. Behzad reported that she was told it will be aired over the next 3 months, at least once a month.

*** Public Works Representative at BTAC Meeting - Striping**

Ms. Behzad introduced Mr. Creer, Senior Engineer from Public Works who works on traffic issues. Striping, parking, and the loops were the issues for discussion. Mr. Creer noted guidelines are established by the State, which is what we are following, there are no requirements from the Vehicle Code. We are amending our striping to conform to the committee's desires. Safety for the bicyclist is the primary concern. Mr. Bjarke would like the committee to compile a list of areas that need upgrade in terms of loops, striping, and a running list to prioritize. Dunne Avenue striping grant won't have a result reported until the Fall. Mr. Eltgroth asked how we cooperate with the County – Mr. Creer says it's the County's way or no way. We have incomplete infrastructure, and we have tried to stripe so that it makes sense to both cyclists and motorists. We have placed fog lines where bike lanes would be placed in the future. The weave motion at Dunne/Butterfield created multiple complaints and we have been sensitive to complaints made over the years. Striping at Dunne/101 is done per Caltrans standard and remains, despite complaints about safety. Recent General Plan changes addressed requirements for intersections, but as roads are too narrow, the bike lanes are compromised. Monterey/Main doesn't have a bike turn lane. The width of the bike lane is determined by the maximum speed of the roadway per VTA. Mr. Eltgroth asked if the Butterfield Linear Park was going to have a bike path. Mark Hubbell asked if Butterfield would be striped when it is completed. Mr. Creer said that it would be several years before this is completed, but would be a great candidate for the grant. Mr. Creer will review the width requirements for bike lanes.

*** Policy of electing BTAC members and present to PRC and/or City Council**

Ms. Behzad reported that the policy for selecting new members is that applicant goes to PRC to be interviewed or presented, PRC approves the appointment, and the City Clerk swears in the new member. Clark said there is a new applicant, Ms. Behzad will check with the City Clerk for the application.

*** Butterfield Boulevard Linear Park – Present the Plans to Show the Bike Lane**

Ms. Behzad brought plans for members to see. Mr. Bjarke said there is a pedestrian pathway through the park. Mr. Bjarke asked for some suggestions as to how to keep kids from riding out into the intersection if they use the pathway on bikes. Barriers were suggested, but it was noted that we need to see what the standards are. David Gittleson needs to look into this and process a change order for barriers. Signs might help, or "chicane"-staggered poles that you can ride around but you can't ride through. There are definite standards from VTA for multi-use trails – VTA Technical Guidelines should show the standards. Mr. Bjarke will research and report back at the next meeting. There is a barrier at Monterey & Metcalf, just south of the water ski park that Mr. Bjarke could look at.

*** Bicycle Parking – Pilot Program**

Building or Planning would check plans to ensure that there is sufficient parking, vehicle & bicycle.

Staff submitted 10 locations to VTA for a possible grant for bicycle racks. Mr. Bjarke acknowledged that we are lacking bike parking in some commercial areas. Deadline was extended to 9/15/03. Mr. McCann thanked Mr. Bjarke for making sure we had bike racks at the Farmer's Market. It was suggested that decals be put out that explain how to use the new racks. An additional suggestion was made to have something shown on Channel 17 with this information. The Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) does have an inventory of bike racks and locations where racks were needed. Mr. Eltgroth handed out a list of areas where he noted racks are needed. He also noted that the City is really succeeding at fulfilling the bike parking requirements of the BMP.

*** Traffic Signals**

Mr. Eltgroth passed out a copy of a list of all the traffic signals in town. Monterey/Dunne, Butterfield/Dunne are on the Tier 3 funding list through VTA, which means VTA will help find funding for these projects. Mr. Eltgroth would like the status of future signal sensors, and which ones have been completed as promised. Mr. Creer said that new signals like Dunne/Hill have the extra sensitive sensors, but they are installed in the travel lanes. It costs about \$300 to \$500 to cut new loops to move sensors into a different lane. Burnett/Monterey signal will be modified with completion of the high school, and will include the sensitive loops. Some agencies are going to cameras instead of cutting in loops, the cost is about \$40,000 per intersection. Mr. Clark asked if sensors will be put in the bike lane; Mr. Creer said there are financial concerns, and we are still in a growth stage. Mr. Eltgroth noted that if the "sweet spot" is marked, and there is no traffic, it is not a problem to leave the roadway to trigger the sensor. Mr. Creer estimated it costs about \$2,000 extra to extend the sensitive sensor to the bike lane. Mr. Clark noted that the cost of retrofitting is greater than putting the sensors in originally. Mr. Bjarke also noted that with those sensors extra maintenance is required because there are more streets cuts which create additional maintenance costs. It was noted that we are a smaller city and there is not a great need for this luxury item. The Monterey/Vineyard intersection should be looked at due to the large number of cyclists that travel the intersection. Mr. Eltgroth suggested the City take his list and indicate which intersections have sensors, when they are coming, etc... Mr. Clark asked for icons on the street to show where the sensors are so that cyclists know.

2. Bicycle Resource Directory

Ms. Behzad noted her goal is to have this completed in time for the Taste of Morgan Hill. Mr. Eltgroth said that the helmet section needs to read that "CA Vehicle Code requires bicycle riders under 18 years of age to wear an approved helmet." Make it stand out – bold. Vehicle Code disallows vehicle operators, including bicyclists, from wearing headphones. The ambulance picture will be deleted. Ms. Behzad will send an updated copy to everyone by 8/29. She will modify the map from the BMP, removing private roads and proposed roads.

3. Countywide Bicycle Advisory Committee Update

- Passed final draft of Pedestrian Technical Guidelines, should be passed by the Board soon.
- "Problems during construction" is an issue that is getting a lot of attention, especially regarding access for cyclists.

BUSINESS

1. Taste of Morgan Hill Bicycle Parking

Member Eltgroth confirmed that everyone on the committee had volunteered for this event. Sunshine Bikes will have someone there each day. Patch kits in a plastic bag will be donated and hung on handle bars. Sunshine will be doing bike safety checks each day. Specialized will donate water bottles. ACTC is providing bike racks, City is providing sawhorses, tape & tickets. Chamber will bring chairs, table, & power. TV & VCR will be there, Mr. Eltgroth will bring a computer with bike safety files.

2. Morgan Hill's Bicycle Friendly Community Application

Member Hauge had to leave early, but members have information for him, which will be addressed at the next meeting.

3. Future Trails Proposal

Member Clark wants to know which trails already exist in town. Julie looked into getting a consultant to survey & inventory trails, it will cost about \$20,000. Most trails are by water ways, which means most of the areas are controlled by SCVWD & Army Corps of Engineers. We need an inventory and we need to define what a trail is, a multi-use path or something else. Mr. Eltgroth would like a list of what grant proposals have been submitted. We need to come up with a definition of what this committee is supposed to do in regard to trails. Mr. Clark can write a trails report and recommendation of proposal for the October meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Still have 1 vacancy

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

(This is the opportunity for any committee member to have an item placed on a future agenda.)

- Bikeways Master Plan – Quarterly reviews starting in June to ensure planned items are moving ahead – next will be held in September
- Review list of prioritized loops based on information from the City-Sept, Mr. Eltgroth
- Review Old List of Traffic Signals that Need Upgrading and Start Presentation to PRC to Set Policy of Putting Detector Loops in the Bike Lanes
- Review Bike Parking, including new police facility and day worker facility to ensure sufficient bike parking at the facilities

- Status of SR25 application in November
- Recommend including signs during construction projects to say the bike lane is closed and the roads are being shared.
- Invite PD to the December meeting

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be held on September 18, 2003 at 6:15pm.